



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2002

Revenue Agents Arrest Man Illegally Selling And Transporting Cigars

ATLANTA – Georgia Department of Revenue agents arrested the owner of Bethel Trading Inc. and seized large amounts of untaxed cigars and three cargo trucks during an inspection of the Doraville, Ga., business on Sept. 16.

Hyun Chul Shin, the owner of Bethel Trading Inc., was charged with selling non-taxed cigars with the intent to evade taxes, a felony, and for transporting non-taxed cigars without proper documentation, a violation of state revenue laws.

A search of Department of Revenue records showed that neither Shin nor Bethel Trading Inc. filed any cigar excise tax reports or payments since its registration with the Department on Sept. 28, 2001.

"This inspection is part of the Department's stepped up enforcement of the state's tobacco laws," said Ronald Johnson, Director of DOR's Alcohol and Tobacco Division. "We have received reports from law abiding cigar wholesalers that some businesses are not complying with the state's excise tax laws on cigars."

Johnson indicated that his agents would continue their statewide inspections of businesses selling cigars and bring charges against those who are operating outside the law.

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